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Parkrun analytics

University College London

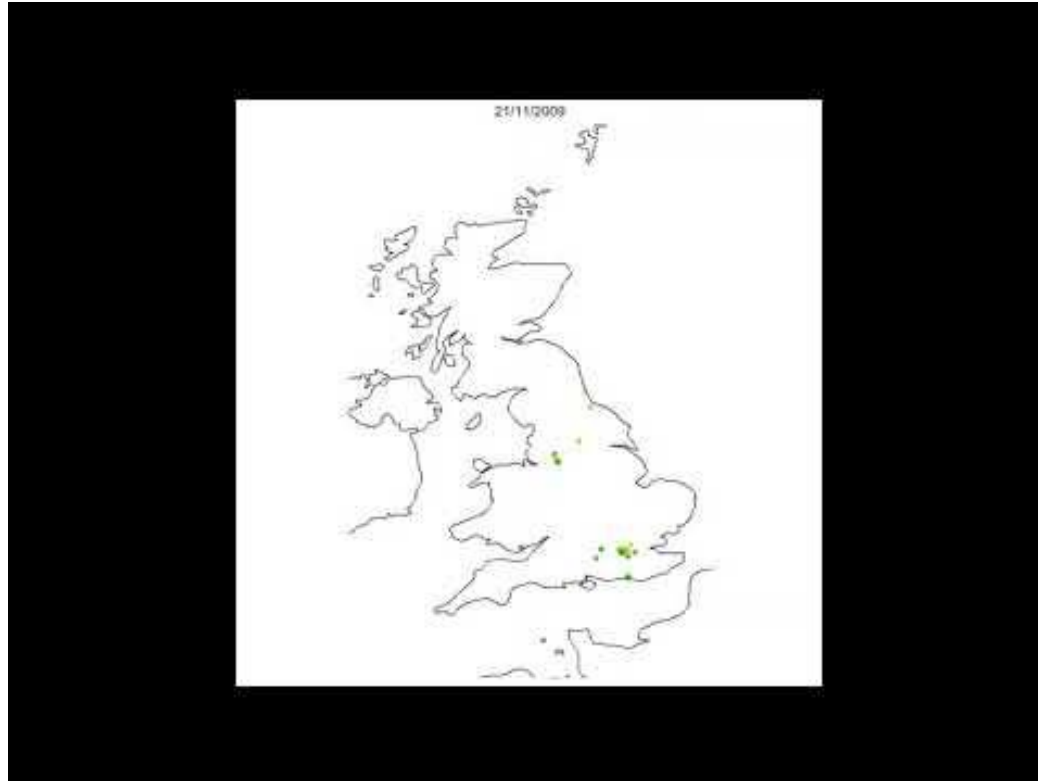
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- 1) School of Health & Related Research, University of Sheffield
- 2) [Dark Peak Analytics Ltd](#)
- 3) Lumanity Ltd



PARTNERSHIP WITH PARKRUN WORTH £3M

Collaboration aims to create 200 new events and boost participants from under-represented groups

 12 December 2018  News  Funding





Research Questions



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Where should parkrun locate 200 new parkrun events?

	Access	Participation
Efficiency	1. Maximize overall access.	3. Maximize overall participation.
Equity	2. Maximize deprivation weighted access.	4. Maximize deprivation weighted participation.

More formally, we define that for any candidate green space location j , the objective function $f(j|E)$ provides the sum of parkrun runs r_i over all LSOA i , weighted by the squared IMD score w_i^2 , given the set of established parkrun event locations $E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{455}\}$:

$$f(j|E) = \sum_{i=1}^{32844} w_i^2 * r_{ij}$$

In the absence of causal estimates, we use the Poisson regression model specified above to predict the expected number of runs r_{ij} for LSOA i based on its IMD score w_i , its (linear) distance to the nearest parkrun event d_{ij} , and its population p_i . The functional form is given below.

$$E(r_{ij}|w_i, d_{ij}, p_i) = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 * w_i + \beta_2 * d_{ij} + \ln(p_i) + \epsilon)$$

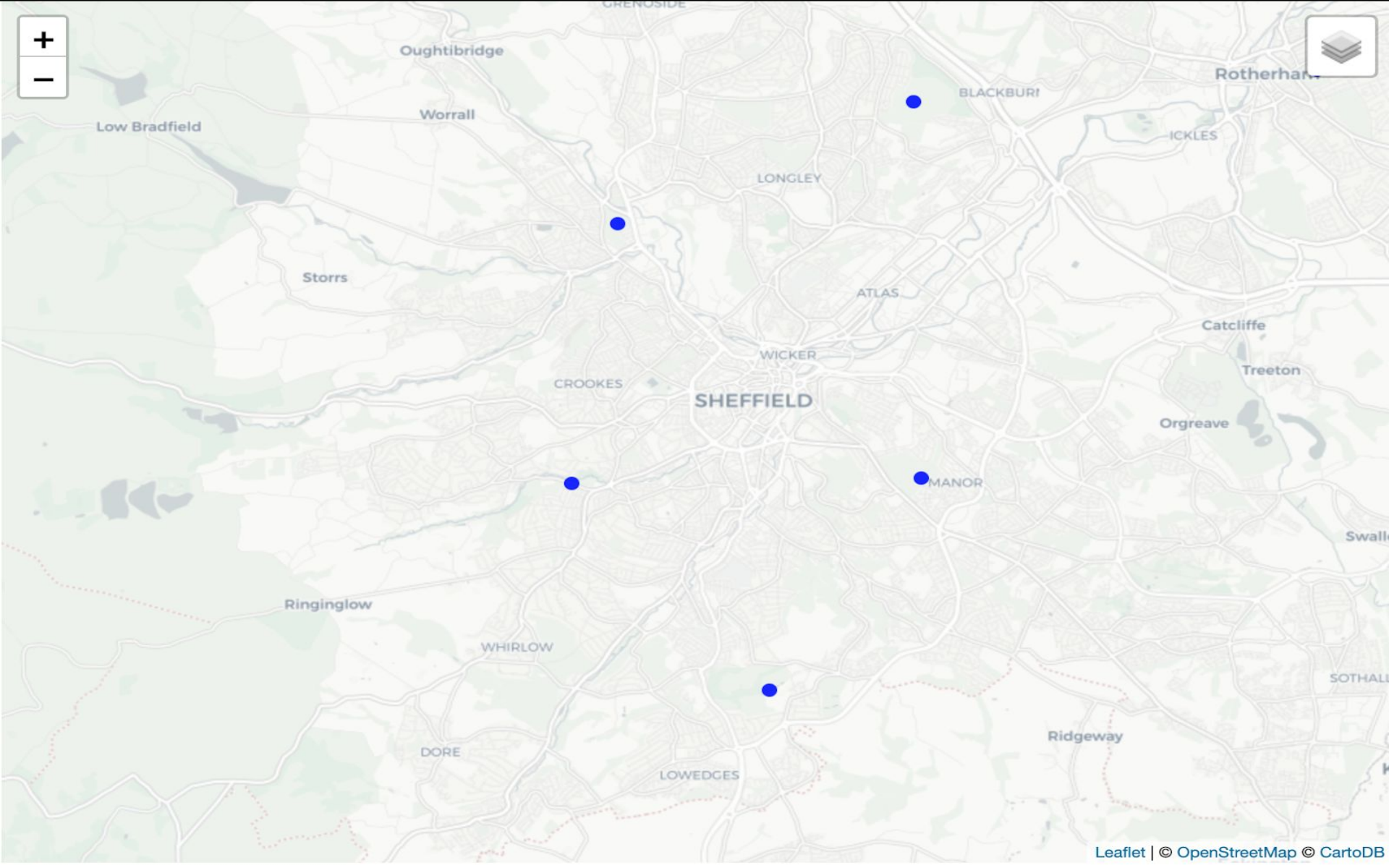
Filling-in the parameter coefficients (see table 3), we derive the following formula:

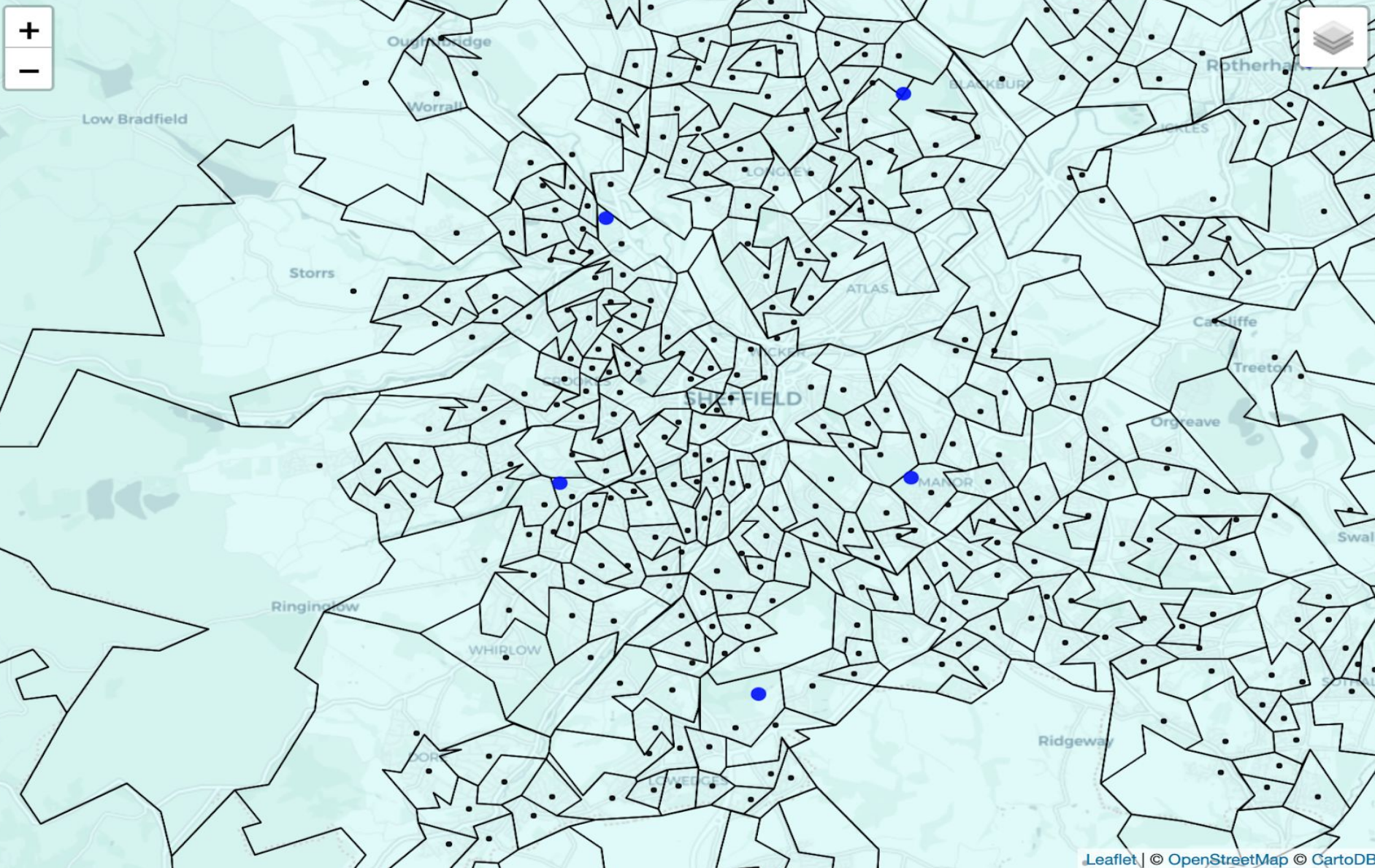
$$\hat{r}_{ij} = \exp(-5.402 - 0.048 * w_i - 0.082 * d_{ij} + \ln(p_i))$$

Note that j can have an effect on r_{ij} through d_{ij} : setting up a new event at location j will reduce the distance to the nearest event for some LSOA i . This means, we evaluate the distances from LSOA i to all established parkrun event locations $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{455}\} \in E$, denoted $\bar{l}_i e_1, \bar{l}_i e_2, \dots, \bar{l}_i e_{455}$, and to the candidate green space location j , denoted $\bar{l}_i j$, and then take the minimum value, i.e. $d_{ij} = \min(\bar{l}_i j, \bar{l}_i e_1, \bar{l}_i e_2, \dots, \bar{l}_i e_{455})$.

The expected change in the objective function is computed for all candidate locations j in the set of the available green spaces $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{2842}\}$, and the location with the maximum value is selected. The selection function is expressed in the following formula:

$$\arg \max_{j \in C} f(j|E)$$







$$\text{Access} = \{ 2.2 * 1,220 + 4.9 * 2,351 + 2.3 * 1,915 + 0.7 * 1,844 + 5.1 * 1,530 \} = \underline{\underline{27,702.2}}$$



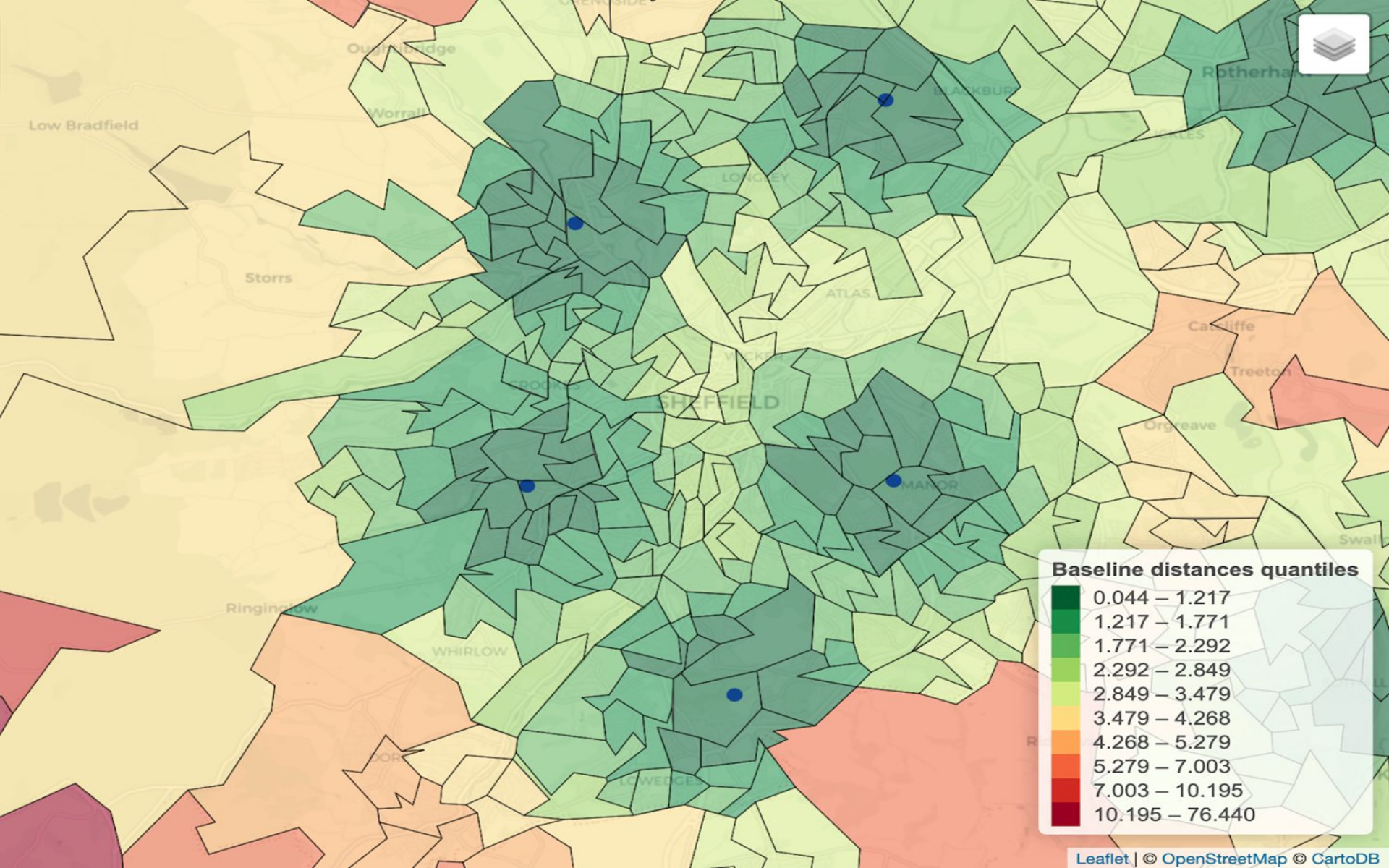
$$\text{Access} = \{ 2.2 * 1,220 + 4.9 * 2,351 + 2.3 * 1,915 + 0.7 * 1,844 + 2.0 * 1,530 \} = \underline{\underline{22,959.2}}$$

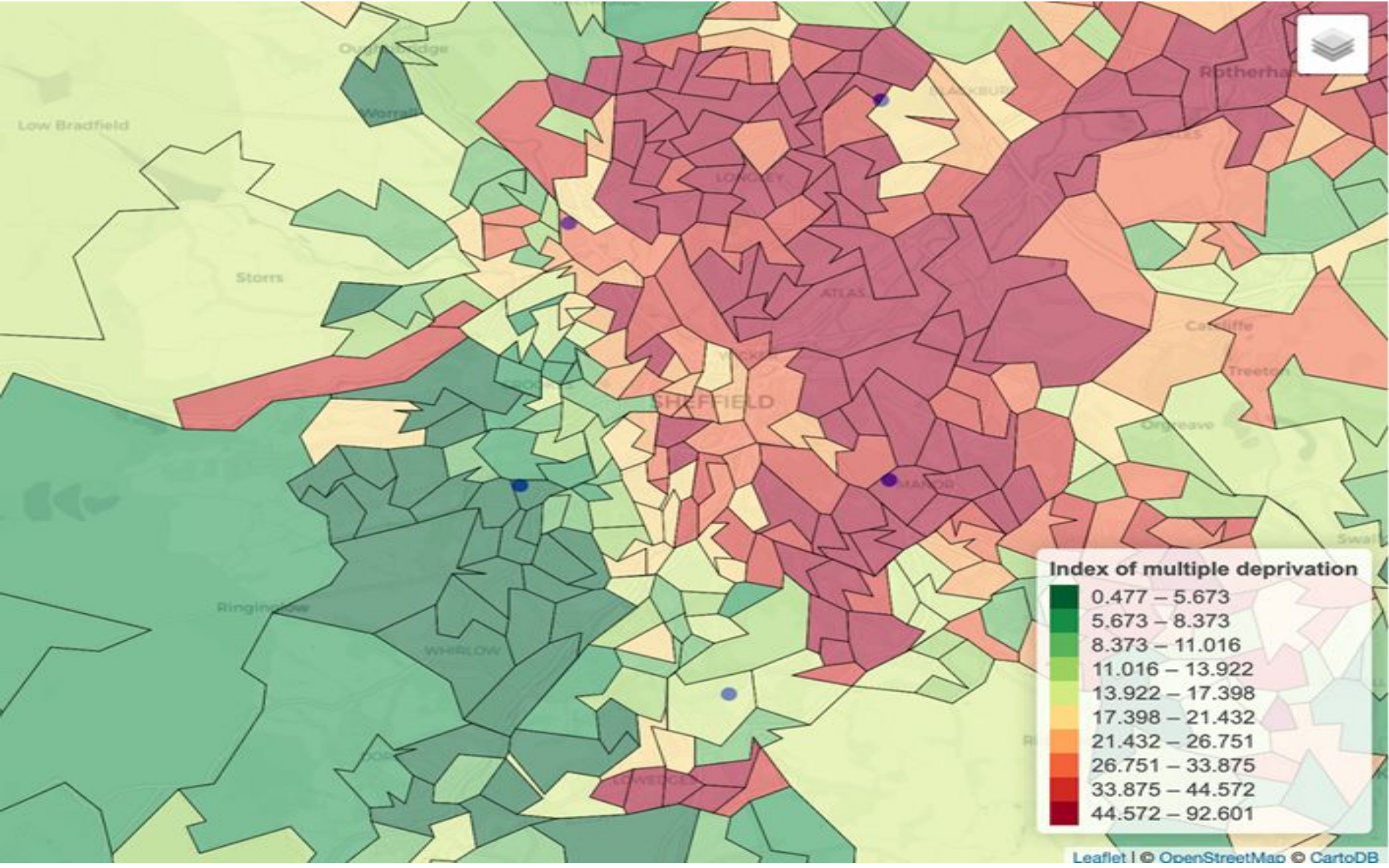


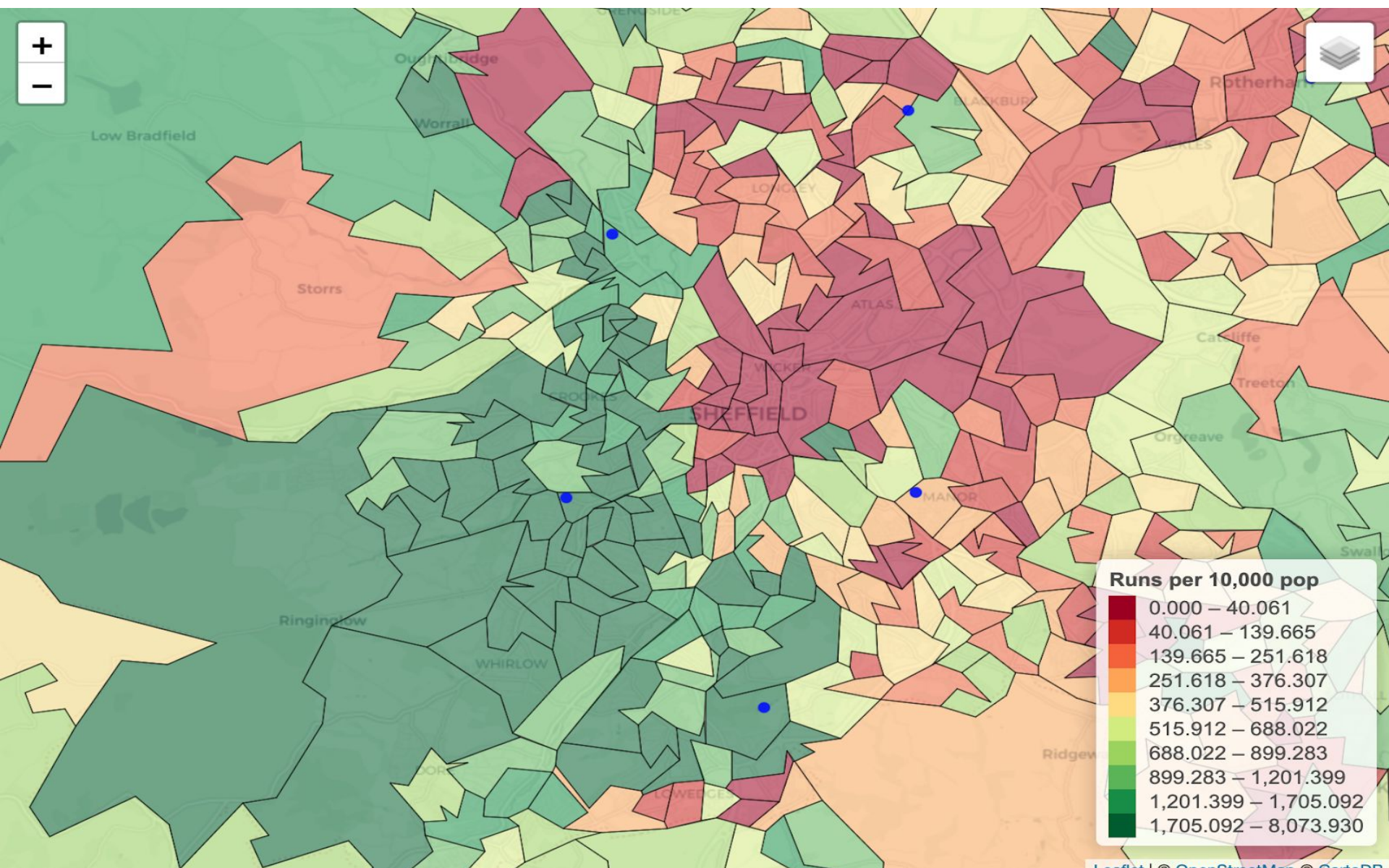
Results



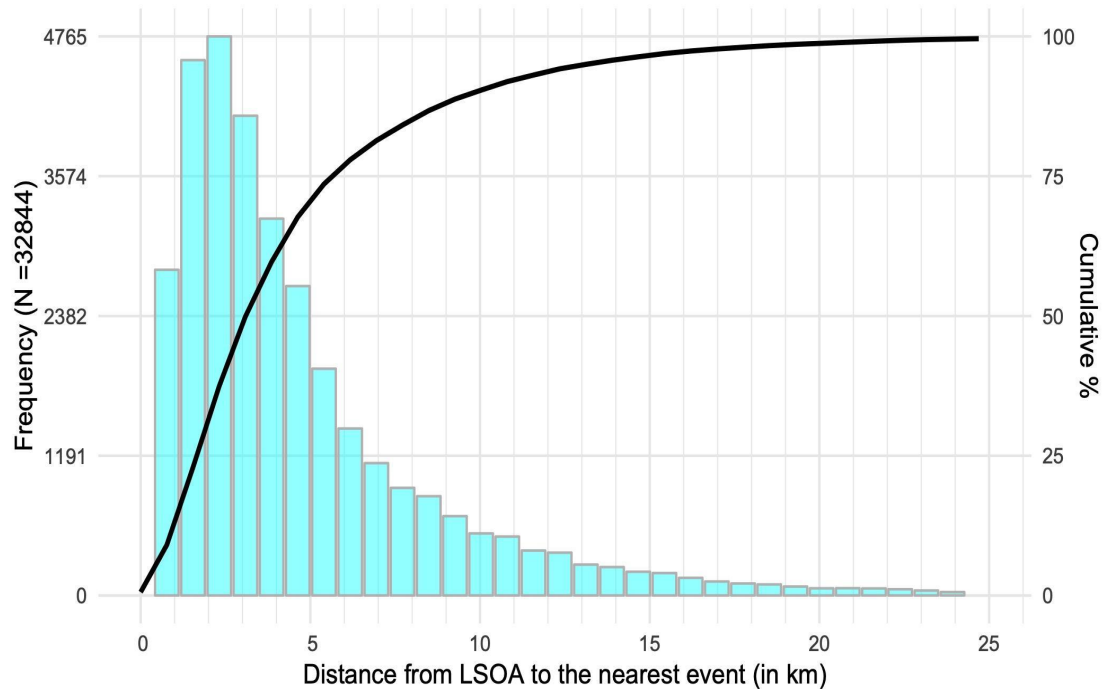
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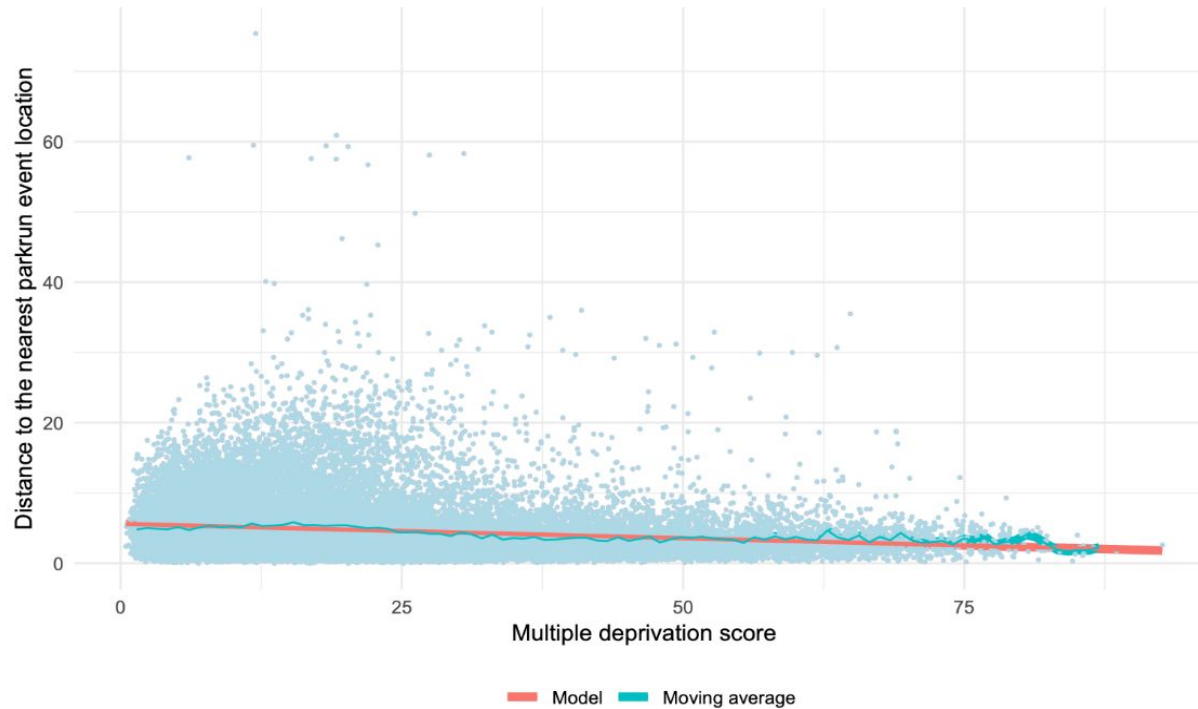




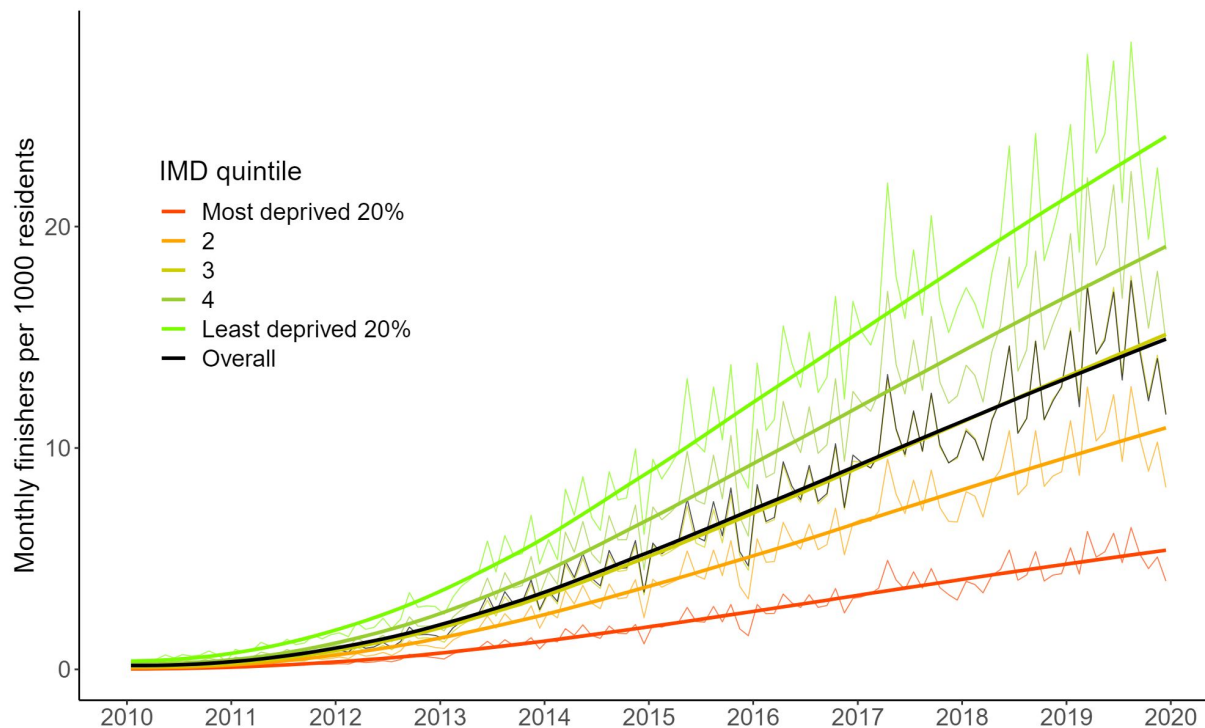
1. How good is geographical access to parkrun?



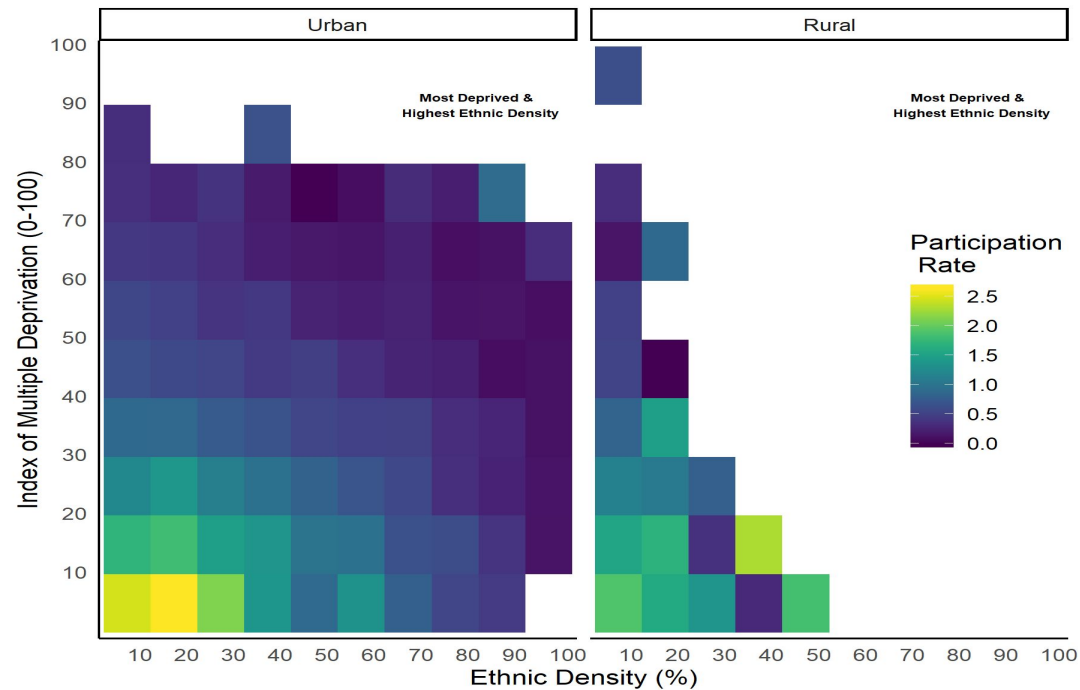
2. How equitable is geographical access?



3. How good is participation in parkrun?



4. How equitable is participation?



Sources: Office for National Statistics
and parkrunUK

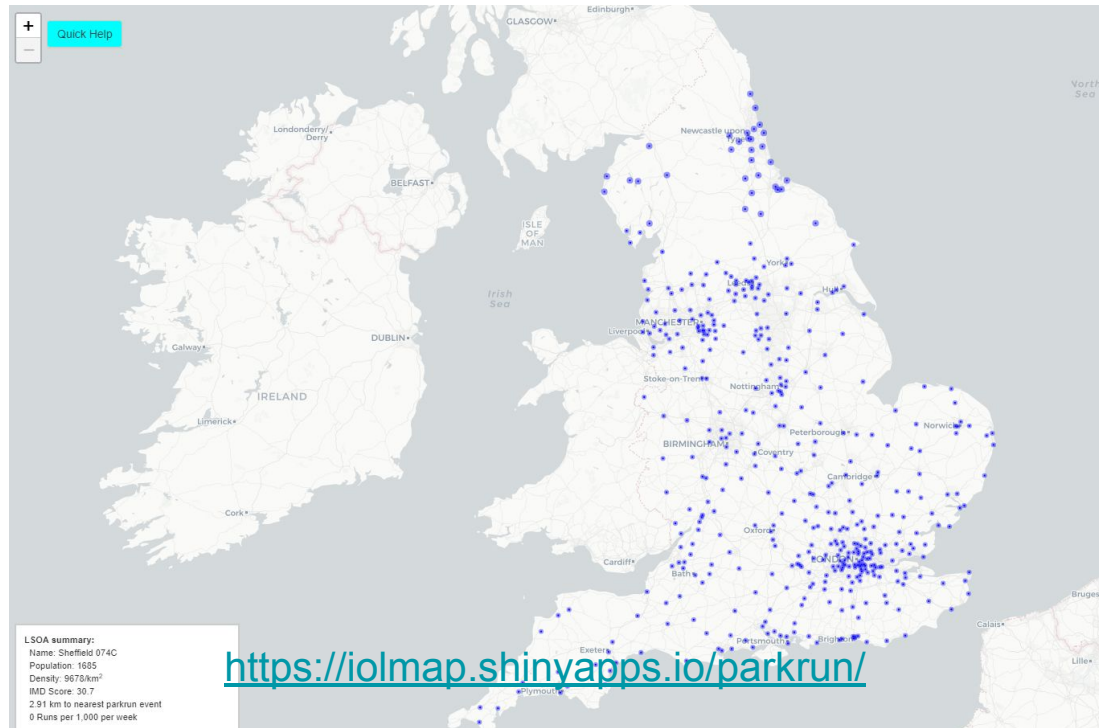


Results



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Publications



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Smith, R.A., Schneider, P.P., Cosulich, R., Quirk, H., Bullas, A.M., Haake, S.J. and Goyder, E., 2021. Socioeconomic inequalities in distance to and participation in a community-based running and walking activity: A longitudinal ecological study of parkrun 2010 to 2019. *Health & Place*, 71, p.102626.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2021.102626>

Schneider, P.P., Smith, R.A., Bullas, A.M., Bayley, T., Haake, S.S., Brennan, A. and Goyder, E. 2020. Multiple deprivation and geographic distance to community physical activity events — achieving equitable access to parkrun in England. *Journal of Public Health*. 48;53(189). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2020.09.002>

Smith, R., Schneider, P., Bullas, A., Haake, S., Quirk, H., Cosulich, R. and Goyder, E., 2020. Does ethnic density influence community participation in mass participation physical activity events? The case of parkrun in England. *Wellcome Open Research*, 5(9), p.9. <https://doi.org/10.12688/wellcomeopenres.15657.2>



Code



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https://github.com/RobertASmith/parkrun_temporal

https://github.com/RobertASmith/DoPE_Public

<https://github.com/RobertASmith/parkruntimeseries>

https://github.com/ScHARR-PHEDS/iolmap_revision

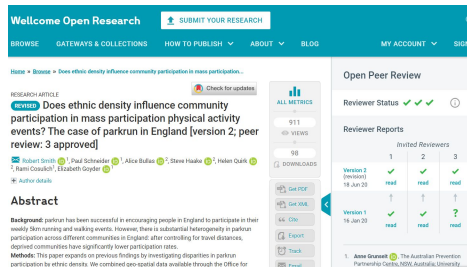
https://github.com/ScHARR-PHEDS/parkrun_book



Reproduction & Impact



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“Rob and colleague Dr. Paul Schneider developed a statistical tool (an algorithm) which searched through all of the greenspaces in England and ranked the top 200 by predicted public health impact.

One example of how the statistical tool was used is the creation of Bowling Park parkrun, located in a deprived area of Bradford. Our local Ambassador, working with community groups, identified the location as an option for a parkrun event – which was corroborated by Rob’s work – and the event became a reality for the local people.” (parkrunUK, 2020).

<https://blog.parkrun.com/uk/2020/12/08/using-research-h-to-improve-inclusivity/>



Thankyou



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